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Astorian.

COVERS THE MORNING FIELD ON THE LOWER COLUMBIA.

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MONEY BEATS PRIDE

Morgan, of New York, Outbids King for a Bible.

PUSHMOBILES THE LATEST

Breezy New York Letter Tells of Police Deprived of Their Blue Silk Nighties—The Last Racing Craze—All Live Issues.

NEW YORK, November 4.—J. Pierpont Morgan has just broken all records by paying \$4,000 in duty on a single copy of the Bible which he recently purchased in France at the neat figure of \$25,000. The volume in question, which was sold at auction, is the original Cluny Bible, one of the finest works of art in France. It being an illuminated text on parchment. It was the work of the Cluny Monks and is more than 200 years old. King Edward wanted it too, as a memorial to his mother, the late Queen Victoria, but as he is only a king with a pittance of a few millions a year, he was forced to give way in chagrin to Mr. Morgan, since the latter was not hampered by the etiquette which would have caused an English subject to withdraw under pain of royal displeasure. Still England's ruler has the satisfaction of knowing that even if he couldn't afford it, he made Mr. Morgan pay a record price, since at the figure named the Bible is the most expensive ever imported to this country. Accompanying the Bible is an illuminated copy of the original order for the arrest of John Bunyan on a charge of heresy. But while \$25,000 may have looked large to other bidders, it is only a drop in the bucket to Mr. Morgan, who, it is asserted, on good authority, has spent more than \$3,000,000 for paintings in the last three months. The costliest single purchase was the portrait of "Miss Farren" by Sir Thomas Lawrence, for which Mr. Morgan paid \$200,000. This painting in 1863 sold for \$444, so that the price paid by New York's financier shows an advance of just about 45,000 per cent.

The first international pushmobile race, a direct growth of the Vanderbilt race, has been run, and won in record time—for pushmobiling is the very newest organized sport in New York, even though it is a sport which is limited to those of immature years. A pushmobile is a wheeled vehicle such as boys use to push and coast about the city streets. Generally it consists of a board laid on two pairs of wheels, the steering being done by the feet or a piece of rope attached to the front axle and the power supplied by a one-boy pusher who runs behind. Until recently the sport has been in a disorganized state, but of late prominent pushmobilers acting together have brought order out of chaos. Elimination trials were run for an international race which took place last week, with many of the characteristics of real auto racing. Rigid rules for the contest were drawn up, under which no contestant was allowed to weigh more than 110 pounds, and no pushmobile less than one quarter of its driver and pusher together. The course was four and one quarter miles in length and was covered by the winner in the record time of twenty-nine minutes and fifty-six seconds, a performance which won a silver cup. At times it is stated some of the pushmobilers were going at the terrific pace of twelve miles an hour. Bent axes and upsets were the time at the "hairpin turn." One quent, the latter occurring most of broken bone was reported and minor bruises were plenty. The name of the winning car is withheld, but it is known to have had two roller skate wheels in front and two large baby carriage wheels behind.

New York's harbor has of late been substantiating the claim made for it,—that it is the richest in the country,—but, unfortunately, its richness in this instance is not in commerce. In everything else, however, it is living up to its reputation, in that it seems to be a veritable mine of submerged and derelict treasures, all of which hurt its commerce. During the last

two months no less than fifteen accidents have been caused by the timbers and hulks which float around the harbor. This week a half submerged canal boat which had been drifting about for no one knows how long was the richest find, but rafts and logs were numerous. Aside from these floating menaces to shipping, New York has also recently had her eyes opened to the fact that her model harbor isn't such a model harbor after all, in that it has not a sufficient depth of water to admit the largest ships now building, let alone those which may be expected in a few years. Altogether New York's commercial interests are awakening to the necessity of improving the harbor and for this reason the city is likely to be strongly represented at the convention of the National Rivers and Harbor Congress in Washington, on December 6 and 7, when the policy of that organization in behalf of larger appropriations for the improvement of the country's rivers and harbors will be urged before Congress. President Roosevelt is known to be heartily in favor of such work, on account of the saving which it will mean in freight rate, and New York realizing the increased commerce which will come from other parts of the country, where the work of congress is receiving enthusiastic support, feels that it is up to her to send a strong delegation to Washington, if the harbor is to be relieved from unpleasant features, whether they arise from derelict canal boats or from the fact that the bottom is too near the top.

No more shall New York's policemen, even though they be members of "the finest," clothe their majestic forms in blue silk nighties for the slumber of which popular fancy makes so fond. The force has said so and made it final, as final as Mr. Murphy's decision to cast aside the suit of stripes with which Mr. Hearst presented him, and to visit his wrath upon any and all who shall depict him in what he considers to be an out-of-date costume. But while Mr. Murphy's suit was only pictorial and allegorical, he never having worn the costume prescribed at Sing Sing, the blue silk nighties as a part of at least one policeman's wardrobe is an actual fact. The horrible truth over which the whole force is shuddering in mortification was discovered last week. With the general shakeup among the force before the election (in the interest of purity in politics) Officer Geissler, who formerly twirled his club and his mustache in graceful nonchalance in the fashionable Tenderloin, where he upheld the majesty of the law by assisting silk-be-decked shoppers to cross Broadway, was exiled to the Coney Island precinct,—a somewhat unfashionable district in comparison. When bedtime arrived the other officers who slept in the station house were paralyzed to see Geissler extract from his suit-case a creation of blue silk, trimmed with lace, and decorated with an embroidered monogram on the breast. As soon as he was asleep a hurried conference was held in the interest of the morals of the force, and as a result the offender was aroused and sent forth on a bogus call. When he returned it was to find the silk nightie rent to ribbons, while the whole room snored peacefully in darkness. But from a dim and distant corner came a voice, "Say, don't youse ring in no more o' them moll dresses. They may go in the Tenderloin, but not here. Stick to the kind your mother used to make. See."

The coming election promises to bring forth certain new features which while they are undoubtedly a step in the right direction, do not appeal to certain "political" citizens of the East Side. In the place of the former watcher at the polls, who not infrequently know whom not to watch, students of Columbia and Yale universities, of whom there are large numbers in the city, have in many cases been called upon to fill these positions. The ready acceptance of the offer shows a gratifying interest in the government of the city on the part of students and graduates, who are often so apathetic in such matters, but it has entirely failed to please the prominent East Side citizens and members of "De Ate" before referred to. "Half Soles" Merrigan voiced the disgust of many of his fellows over what he chose to call the "noive of them stoo-dents," in taking away a poor man's job. Incidentally Mr. Merrigan characterizes the campaign as the worst ever, stating that it is too ladylike, and bawling the fact that campaign funds are as rare in

WASHINGTON ITEMS

Wireless To Be Used for Saving Ships at Sea.

CUSHMAN'S LATEST YARN

Money Stringency And the Various Ways It is Accounted For—Democrats Want Presidential Candidate from the South.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 2. The United States Weather Bureau looks forward to the furnishing of weather forecasts to vessels on every ocean by means of wireless telegraphy. "We need an international law compelling every vessel to carry wireless telegraph apparatus and requesting them to take daily observations, to transmit them as soon as taken and to receive and forward such messages to the nearest station," said Professor Willis Moore, Chief of the Weather Bureau, in discussing the matter. "It will take time to accomplish this; five years, or possibly ten, but in the end it will come, because by this means loss of life at sea will be reduced to a minimum. At present we are furnishing forecasts to vessels along the Atlantic and are receiving daily observations from a number of trans-Atlantic liners. We also receive readings from several stations we established in the Azores, the Bermudas, th Bahamas, the north coast of South America, and a score of points in the West. In make out fairly accurate maps of the storm centers and furnish the data to vessels within the reach of the wireless stations along the coast. When we get daily observations from vessels all over the world we will map out the storm centers and cover practically the area of the ocean. This information we will send to ships within two hours of the time they send their readings and they will have an opportunity to steer clear of the storm centers. This system will be of immense value to vessels and owing to its simplicity and inexpensiveness it is bound to come."

The death of the widow of the President of the Confederacy recalls the fact that she and Mrs. Grant met for the first time just previous to the hostilities between this country and Spain. The meeting took place at St. Louis where the widows of the two distinguished men arrived at the hotel on the same day. Both were passing through St. Louis on visits to their relatives and each was ignorant of the presence of the other in the hotel, although they were the center of a group of friends in adjoining parlors connected by sliding doors open to view. A newspaper reporter was the means of the meeting of the two widows. He had gone to interview Mrs. Davis, at the conclusion of which he noticed the widow of General Grant and advanced to meet her, and advised Mrs. Grant immediately of the presence of Mrs. Davis. Davis expressed a desire to meet the widow of the President of the Confederacy and the introduction was arranged by the newspaper man. It is not known whether the two ever met again.

Representative Cushman, of Washington, is quite a story teller. The following is one of his latest. "Once there was a young man who got into the habit of drinking too much. He would go out most every night and get filled up with red-eye, and a young friend of his would be obliged to bring him home. This friend got tired of piloting that fellow home night after night. One night he was bringing him home in his customary condition and was delivering him a

lecture on morals en route. They had turned a corner and directly in front of them was a big distillery in which the night force was at work. The structure was lit up with electricity from basement to cupola. Just then his friend said to him 'Harry you ought to have sense enough to know that you can't drink up all the whiskey that is manufactured.' At this the intoxicated Harry took another reef in his legs and pointed his unsteady finger up toward the distillery, and said: 'Well, I call (hic) your attention to the fact that I am making them work nights, all right.'

The money stringency has occasioned a good deal of worry to the administration as well as to the great financial centers, and the recent meeting of the bankers discussed the advisability of securing some more elastic currency. The unthinking are apt to lay all the money stringency to the door of Wall Street speculation, but there has not been any great amount of over-speculation for a number of months and any other causes must be sought for. The Wall Street Journal says that three things have operated more than anything else to bring about the present tightness in the money market.—Speculation in real estate, the high price of labor, the movement of the immense crops, the Journal adds that the last two are legitimate, but the first needs to be guarded against. Statistics show that in nearly every city of the country there has been great activity in real estate for many months, and that we have been having an era of high prices. The volume of real estate business in Washington has been immense during the summer, and it still continues at high tide.

Senator Raynor, of Maryland advocates the nomination of a Southern Democrat for the Presidency in opposition to Editor Hearst. "If it were possible to nominate a Southern man for the Presidency we ought to do it," he said "It would be the delight of my life to canvass the country for Major John W. Daniel, of Virginia, my colleague in the senate and my old college mate, or for Joe Blackburn, as noble a man as there is among them all, or John G. Carlisle, who though living in New York, is a Kentuckian by birth, and a man who would be a tower of strength among us. No one can tell who the candidate will be, Bryan is not pressing his candidacy, but if the party wants him and Hearst should be the next Governor of New York and his opponent for the nomination, whom will we take?"

I have the greatest respect for the President personally and officially," said Mr. Raynor. "He is a man of charming and attractive presence, and one of the most wonderful men in the country. But I am opposed to the means and methods by which he reaches his accomplishments, and propose at the next session of the Senate to take up the subject."

Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, has been in the city consulting with the President and others on legal and political matters. As Attorney General Mr. Knox prosecuted the Northern Securities case and the President has the highest esteem for his legal acumen. Senator Knox has recently returned from an automobile trip through Switzerland and other European countries and is enthusiastic over the method of seeing them. He was absolutely confident of the election of Mr. Stewart as Governor of Pennsylvania.

Attention has been focussed on the Panama canal to such an extent that most of us have overlooked the British Mexican Tehuantepec Railway which traverses the Isthmus of Tehuantepec at the southern extremity of Mexico. This railway was practically completed a year ago and final touches are now being given to its terminal ports, Coatzacoalcas and Salina Cruz. On the opening of these ports this railroad will complete, under advantageous terms, with the Panama railroad, for the traffic now going around Cape Horn, or via the Panama route. It is claimed the use of the Tehuantepec route will save 1250 miles and as the ordinary freight steamer makes only about 250 miles per day it means about four days advantage for this route over the Panama, allowing a day from steamer to steamer. The investors in this railway hope it will be able to compete with the Panama canal itself. At any rate it will be open long before the canal.